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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,694	08/05/2003	Jeffrey A. Anderson	16316-002001	7611

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STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

CHAPMAN, JEANETTE E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3635

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/633,694	Applicant(s) ANDERSON, JEFFREY A.	
	Examiner Chapman E Jeanette	Art Unit 3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42, 43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 41 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Drawing Annotations</u> |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 8-9, 11-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Forootan et al(3916578). Forootan et al discloses a foundation structure for a Claims 1-40 and 42-43 are rejected over 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sucato et al(5605024)

Sucato et al discloses a metal framing member 61 comprising:

- a formed metal sheet including a plurality of expanded web slots in a region 64/65 of the formed sheet metal; (see column 4, lines 22-30);
- the expanded web slots include voids and metal web elements 62/63 in the region of the framing elements;
- the web region and first/second flanges extending from the web region are the surfaces shown in figures 20-21 of the u-shaped elements 62/63; the first and second flanges are parallel;
- the web region include expanded web slots shown in figure 21
- the first and second flanges include expanded web slots; the legs on the u-shaped members 62/63 are the closing regions extending the first flange to the second, standard for metal studs, to form the substantially tubular structure;
- Each web slot extends along a length of the framing member;
- The plurality of web slots are arranged in offset five or more columns parallel to the length of the framing member; see figures 20-21;
- Reinforcements 66 are in the web elements; the reinforcements comprises flanges or darts.

Regarding claims 10: It is clear that the expanded slots may be formed on any surface were the accompanying function of providing reduction in material content, minimal heat transfer and noise reduction.

The method of manufacturer a framing member comprises:

- providing a formed sheet having a length and a web region
- placing a plurality of slots, formed by stamping, along a portion of the length of the web region ;stamping to form the mesh may include passing the sheet of a block in order to provide a substrate for performing the stamping process;
- stamping includes piercing slots into the region;
- expanding the slots includes mechanically moving the sides of the region apart; see figure 20-21

The form the metal sheet assumes prior to use is a matter of choice; one of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated using any sheet from any source that is capable of being transported to the place of manufacture.

As with any stud/beam, web the uses are limitless, it is obvious that such studs with openings'/slots may be used to provide for utility wiring and the like; the use of the stud is at the discretion and selection of the construction process and the participants.

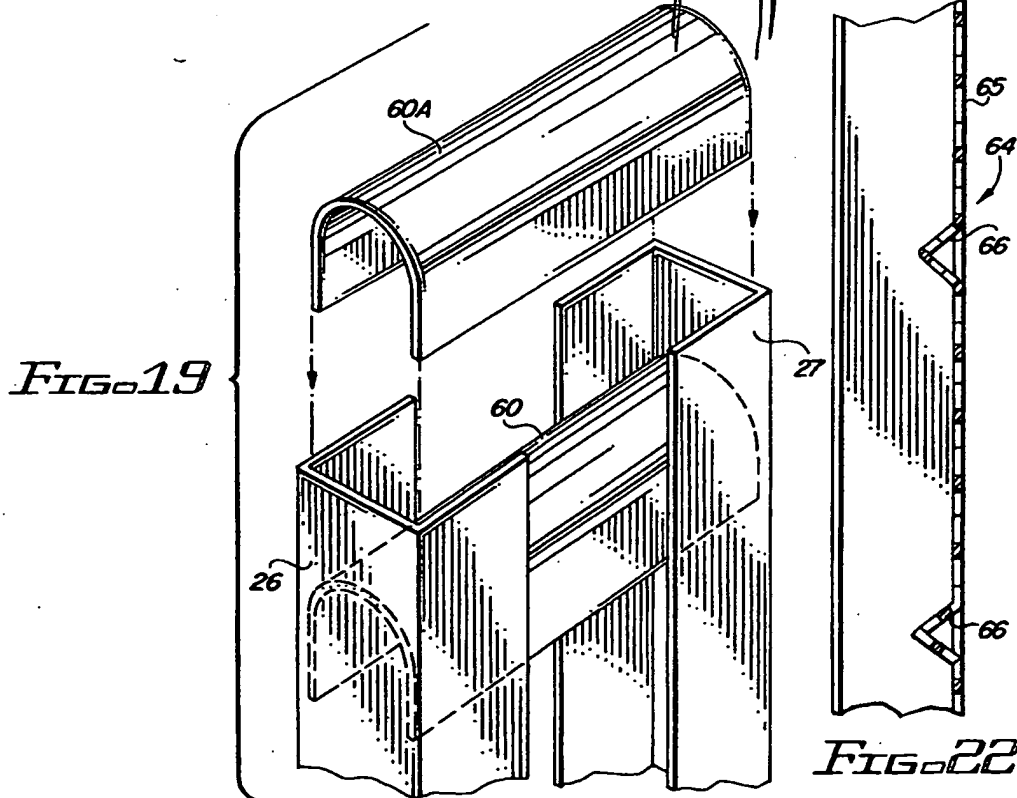
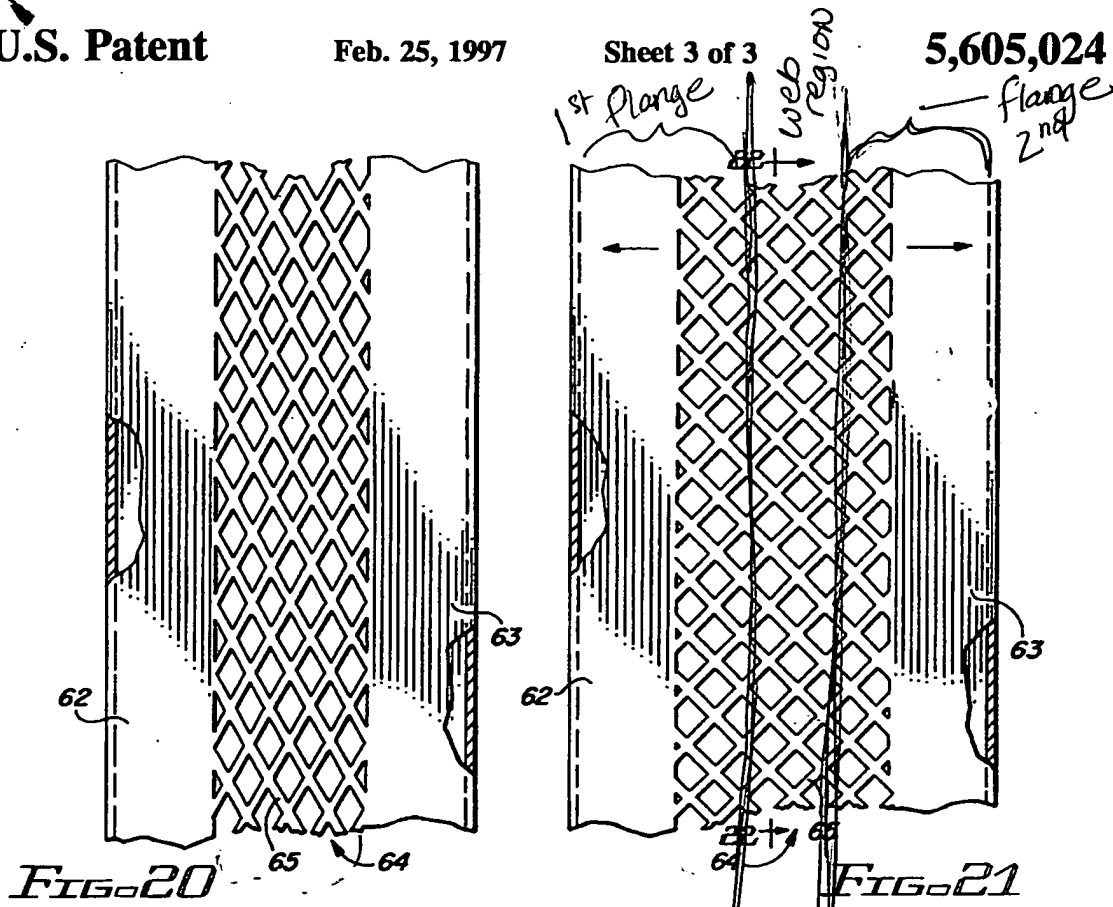
Claim 41 is objected to as depending upon a rejected claim but would be considered allowable if amended to include the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chapman E Jeanette whose telephone number is 703-308-1310. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri, 8:30-6:00, every other fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Friedman Carl can be reached on 703-308-0839. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jeanette Chapman
Primary Examiner



Drawing Annotations